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Director of Central Intelligence

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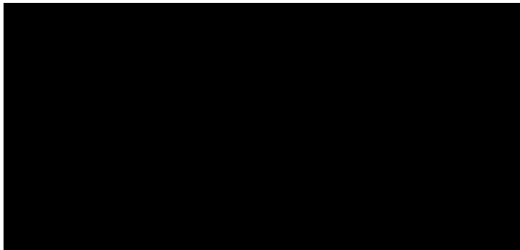
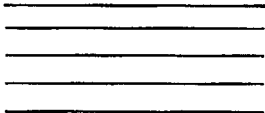
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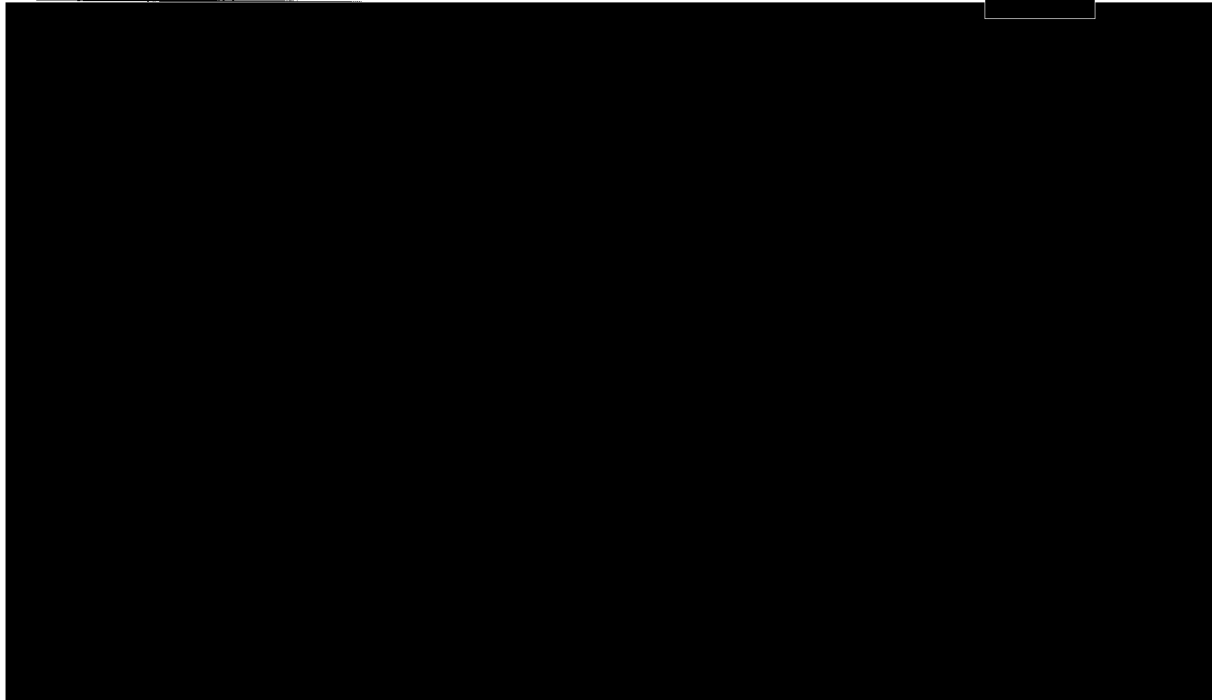
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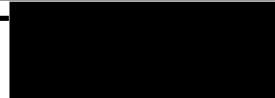
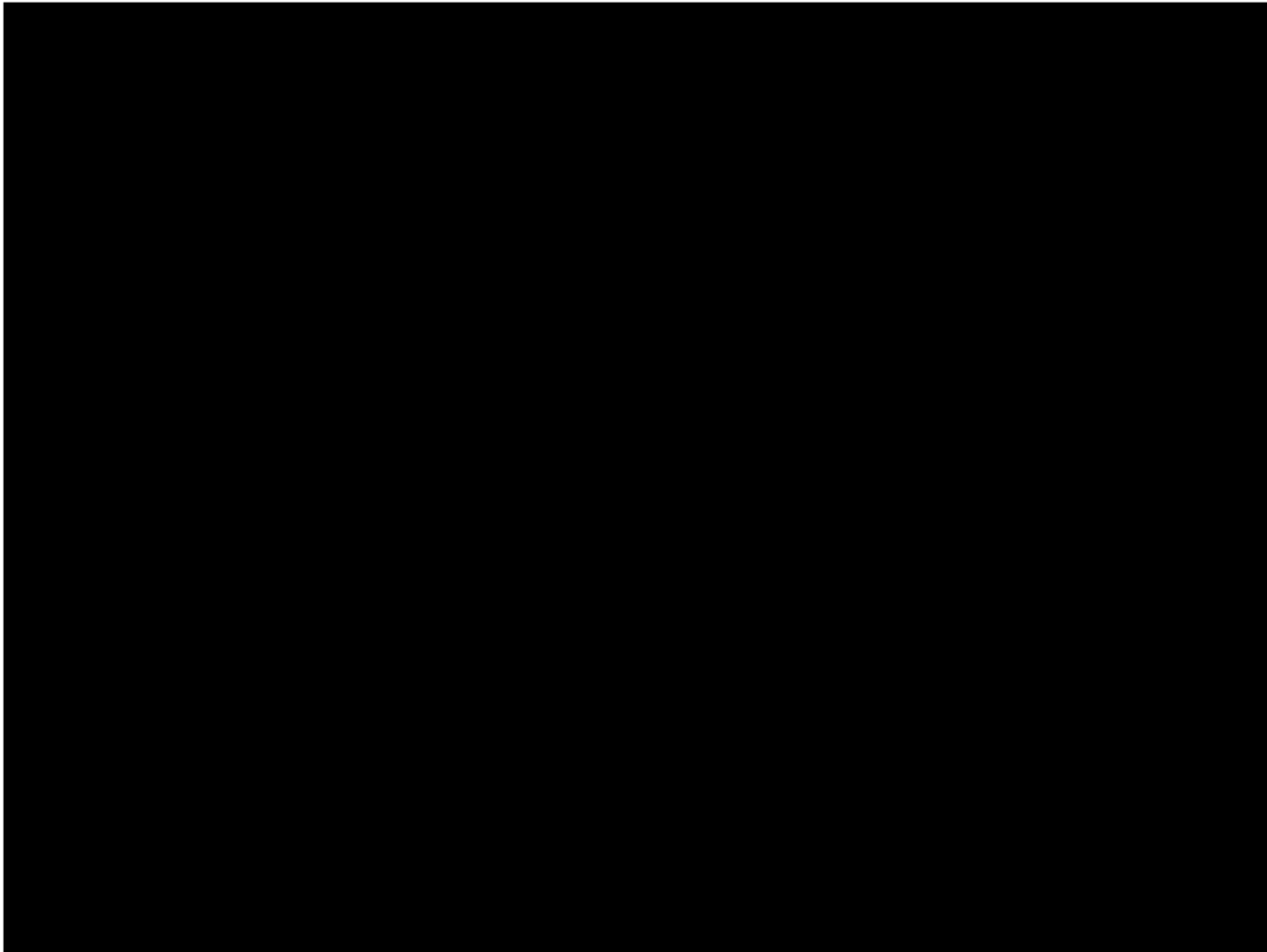
India: Linking Kashmir Posture With Nuclear Capability [REDACTED]

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Current Notes

SOUTH ASIA

India:

Linking Kashmir Posture With Nuclear Capability [REDACTED]

Prime Minister Vajpayee yesterday gave hardline Home Minister Advani full responsibility for Kashmir policy, including approval authority for cross-border raids and "hot pursuit" across the Line of Control. Advani last week announced the nuclear tests had "ushered in a new era in Indo-Pak relations" and explicitly linked India's nuclear capability with "finding a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem."

— Vajpayee last week took Kashmir Chief Minister Abdullah—*who lacks any connection to the scientific, defense, or nuclear establishments*—on an official visit to the test site. [REDACTED]

Advani has said his goals for Kashmir include dealing with Pakistan's "proxy war," improving economic development, and resettling Kashmiri Hindu refugees who had fled violence in the state. *Advani's rhetoric and refusal to talk with militants and Kashmiri political separatists suggest he would not support nonmilitary options to resolve the Kashmir issue.* [REDACTED]

Islamabad considers the Bharatiya Janata Party's tough talk on Kashmir proof that New Delhi is employing "nuclear blackmail" to resolve the dispute. Army Chief Karamat toured frontline units in Kashmir yesterday and urged vigilance against Indian aggression.

— *Islamabad's past behavior suggests it will not back down in the face of Indian threats and may raise the stakes by stepping up infiltration of militants across the Kashmir Line of Control to launch high-profile assassinations, kidnappings, or bombings against civilian targets in India.* [REDACTED]

Several major incidents this year make a significant withdrawal of security forces from Kashmir unlikely. Militants have conducted several high-profile attacks on civilians, and entire families of Kashmiri Hindus have been massacred. Pakistani journalists say a slaughter of 22 villagers in the Pakistani part of Kashmir this month was a retaliatory strike by pro-Indian counter-militants. [REDACTED]

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